7. Timely availability of foodgrains at FPS level and fixed dates of distribution to ration card holders should be ensured.

8. Training of members of FPS level Vigilance Committees should be ensured. Proposals for funding training can be sent to the GoI.

9. Computerisation of TPDS operations be undertaken.

In addition, the Government has also taken steps for introducing electronic transfer of funds to FCI and issued instructions for display of Banners/Boards on the wind shield as well as rear end of the truck/vehicles carrying PDS articles indicating name of State Government, destination, commodity and Agent's name.

At present wheat, rice, sugar and kerosene are distributed under TPDS. However, to make the Fair Price Shops more viable the Central Government have requested the States/UTs Administrations to allow the Fair Price Shops to sell non PDS commodities and additional items of daily use. There is no proposal to bear any subsidy on this account by the Central Government. Central Government is already bearing a huge subsidy on distribution of rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene oil under the PDS.

Garib Rath

†*253. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trains introduced a s 'Garib Rath' alongwith the cities linked by the said trains;

(b) the number of poor passengers travelled therein, till date;

(c) the income earned by the Railways through these poor passengers; and

(d) the amount spent indiscriminately on the advertisement of these 'Garib Rath' trains in newspapers by Government?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) 2203/2204 Saharsa-Amritsar Garib Rath (Bi-weekly) Express has been introduced between Saharsa and Amritsar connecting Beas, Jalandhar city, Ludhiana,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Ambala cantonment, New Delhi, Moradabad, Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Siwan, Chhapra, Hajipur, Barauni & Khagaria.

(b) and (c) Around 24,658 passengers travelled by these trains from October 2006 till date and the earning therefrom was Rs. 1.38 crores (approx.).

(d) In order to inform the public of the various features including the date of launch of Garib Rath Express trains, which is a new concept of providing fully air-conditioned services at affordable prices for the common man, Rs. 1.62 crore have been incurred on advertisements in newspapers.

Toxic spots of India

*254. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have gone through the report released by the Fuller Institute in New York in which they have identified six toxic spots marring India's growth story;

(b) whether Government are aware that these spots are located in Kolkata, Kanpur, Vapi, Ankaleshwar and Ranipet; and

(c) what action Government plan to take to stop toxicity emanating from these industries situated in above towns, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. A report titled "Worlds Worst Polluted Places The Top Ten" has been released by the Blacksmith Institute, New York in October, 2006. The report gives the list of 35 polluted sites across the continents prepared by the Institute, which includes six (6) sites in our country, namely, Picnic Gardens, Kolkata, Vapi, Ankleshwar, Kanpur, Bhopal and Ranipet. Out of these sites, Ranipet, which has pollutants of tannery wastes, figures in the Top Ten List.

The Government is unaware of the professional credentials of the Blacksmith Institute, or its affiliation to commercial and/or political interests. The basis of the report i.e. data and methodology is also unclear. The